

From: Alistair Helfer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:00am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I would just like to put in my 2 cents to this settlement idea. I am deeply opposed to this as this settlement seems to be a compromise of justice. Microsoft's business practices have already proven to be damaging to AT LEAST one business, ie., Netscape, but also threaten to reduce a fledgling industry to nothing.

By bundling applications into their operating system and not releasing documentation for their API's to the software development community, they make it impossible for application software companies to develop products for their platform. The result of this is that Microsoft can be the sole provider and charge whatever they wish for their services, most of which they appropriated from other software vendors as well as the open source community (Their TCP/IP stack was taken from the FreeBSD operating system). This not only stifles competition in the applications market, but innovation as well.

Best regards,

Alistair Helfer